

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been rewritten.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 through 62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Matsumoto et al. 4,860,026 in view of Suzuki 4,551,736. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the claimed invention, inks having similar color and having different density have different penetrability. This provides for smooth, non-grainy reproduction of halftone gradation, with good print quality of black characters and fine lines. It also reduces changes in the graininess and tone of the recorded image in areas where the ink is switched (see specification page 72, line 26 to page 73, line 5).

Applicants submit that Matsumoto et al. '026 discloses a recording method using inks of similar color and having different dye densities (thin, intermediate and thick).

Applicants submit that Suzuki '736 discloses ink compositions having different dye densities. Suzuki's goal is to reduce the variation in the diameters of dots formed on the recording medium by discharged ink droplets. To achieve this purpose, Suzuki defines the difference in the viscosities of the inks having different dye densities.

The Examiner notes the two yellow ink compositions of Comparative Example 1. The only difference between them is the concentration, or density, of the dye. See col. 6, lines 29-31. Suzuki does not reveal anything about penetrability.

Applicants therefore submit that the claimed features of the invention are not taught or suggested by Matsumoto et al. or Suzuki, either alone or in combination.

Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicants submit that Yui et al. 5,382,283 shows an example of an ink composition for ink jet recording, and does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection, and submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of this application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 347-8100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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